(a) the total number of voluntary organisations which have been provided assistance under 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' by his Ministry in the country during last three years; and

(b) the details of the total number of blocks and villages where in this 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' is being operated in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Under the Innovative and Experimental Education component of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the Ministry of Human Resource Development has provided funds during the last three years *i.e.* 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 to 21,19 and 30 Voluntary Organizations respectively for running innovative education projects.

(b) All districts and blocks of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan are covered under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, a programme for universalization of Elementary Education run in partnership between Central and State Governments.

Coverage of schools under mid-day meal scheme

1371. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that around 12 crore children in over 9.50 lakh schools in India are now covered under the mid-day meal scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether under this project over one million people, mainly women from disadvantaged sections, are employed in cooking and serving hot meals to school kids; and

(d) the details of Central assistance that is provided to the States under this project especially with reference to the Orissa State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by States and UTs, details of coverage of children and institutions in 2005-06 are given in the enclosed Statement (See below).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As per the existing guidelines, following Central assistance have been provided to States, including Orissa, in 2005-06:—

(i) Free foodgrains @ 100 grams per child per school day,

(ii) Transport subsidy,

(iii) Assistance for cooking cost,

(iv) Assistance for Management, Monitoring & Evaluation component, and

(v) Assistance for provision of mid-day meal during summer vacation to children in drought-affected areas.

Statement

Coverage of schools under mid-day meal scheme

Enrolment and No. of Institutions covered under Mid-Day Meal Scheme in 2005-06

SI.No.	State/UT	No. of Primary Schools and EGS/AIE Centres	Children Covered (in lakhs)
1	2	3	4
	States		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	74463	63.62
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2470	2.19
3.	Assam	38322	47.96
4.	Bihar	65250	126.38
5.	Chhattisgarh	31740	28.89
6.	Goa	1132	0.67
7.	Gujarat	29887	51.33
8.	Haryana	9343	16.46
9.	Himachal Pradesh	10839	5.78
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	20198	10.28
11.	Jharkhand	43498	41.02
12.	Karnataka	45725	49.63
13.	Kerala	10829	19.07
14.	Madhya Pradesh	87455	86.65
15,	Maharashtra	83377	97.79

1	2	3	4
16.	Manipur	2965	2.95
17.'	Meghalaya	7640	5.98
18.	Mizoram	1423	1.04
19.	Nagaland	1654	1.74
20.	Orissa	69700	51.56
21.	Punjab	16151	15.52
22.	Rajasthan	74118	102.16
23.	Sikkim	871	0.98
24.	Tamil Nadu	35599	41.52
25.	Tripura	5226	5.26
26.	Uttaranchal	93187	7.80
21.	Uttar Pradesh	12681	186.44
28.	West Bengal Union Territories	70858	108.86
29.	A&N Islands	361	0.35
30.	Chandigarh	344	0.57
31.	D&N Haveli	209	0.33
32.	Daman & Diu	82	0.15
33.	Delhi	5777	12.38
34.	Lakshadweep	32	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	255	0.51
	TOTAL:	953661	1193.81

Interest of Harvard University in higher education in India

1372. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Harvard University has shown interest to expand contacts with India for achieving excellence in higher education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the President of this University has given some suggestions to improve the education system in India with a view to attract foreign students; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?